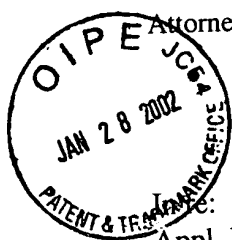


PATENT



Attorney's Docket No. 5576-131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Maeda et al.

Appl. No.: 09/631,491

Filed: August 3, 2000

For: HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY AND  
NICKEL-METAL HYDRIDE RECHARGEABLE BATTERY

Confirmation No.:

Group Art Unit: 1742

Examiner: H. Wilkins, III

January 28, 2002

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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AMENDMENT

TC 1700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 28, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

1. (Twice amended) A hydrogen absorbing alloy having a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising La in an amount of 24 to 33% by weight in the alloy, Mg in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight in the alloy, and 6% by weight or less of Co in the alloy.

Cancel Claims 2-4.

12. (Amended) A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, wherein said alloy is represented by the formula  $\text{La}_u\text{R}_v\text{Mg}_w\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{M}_z$ , wherein:

R is a rare earth element other than La;

M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mn, Al, Si, Sn, Fe, Cu, Ti,

Zr, and V; and

the ratio of  $(x+y+z)/(u+v)$  is 4 to 7.